metro

PHILADELPHIA NO. 1 FREE DAILY IN THE US

Tuesday, April 26, 2016 metro.us | t: MetroPhilly | f: MetroPhilly

A SOUR NOTE IN 'LEMONADE'

Beyonce's army picks the wrong target. 13

Remembering soul legend Billy Paul. 2

Ready, set, vote. 5

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QUARTERBACK AND FORTH

Glen Macnow says the Eagles made the right decision by moving up to draft Carson Wentz. Sam Bradford disagrees. 19-20

GETTY IMAGES

3 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

OBAMA RAMPS UP SPECIAL FORCES MISSION IN SYRIA AGAINST ISIS

President Barack Obama announced on Monday the biggest expansion of U.S. ground troops in Syria since the civil war there began, saying he would dispatch 250 special forces soldiers to help local militia to build on successes against Islamic State. The new deployment increases U.S. forces in Syria six-fold to about 300. While the total U.S. ground force is still small by comparison to other American deployments, defense experts said it could help shift the momentum in Syria by giving more Syrian fighters on the ground access to U.S. close air support. Obama said the move followed victories that clawed back territory from Islamic State.

REUTERS

CLEVELAND TO PAY $6M TO SETTLE POLICE KILLING OF TAMIR RICE

2 Cleveland officials have agreed to pay $6 million to settle a lawsuit filed by the family of Tamir Rice, a 12-year-old black boy who was shot dead by a white police officer in 2014, according to documents filed in federal court on Monday. The city admitted no wrongdoing in the shooting and Rice's family agreed to drop the complaint against two officers, including the one who shot the boy, U.S. District Judge Dan Aaron Polster, who mediated the settlement, said in the documents. Rice was shot in a local park by Timothy Loehmann after he and another white officer, Frank Garmback, responded to reports of a suspect with a gun. An investigation revealed that Rice, who died a day after the shooting, had been seen holding a replica gun that shoots plastic pellets. The shooting was one of several that have fueled scrutiny of police use of deadly force, particularly against minorities. REUTERS

CRITICS OF TRANSGENDER LAW DELIVER PETITIONS SEEKING REPEAL

3 Opponents of a North Carolina law that restricts bathroom choices for transgender people said they have nearly 180,000 signatures on petitions demanding its repeal as lawmakers return on Monday for a legislative session receiving national scrutiny. The law's critics said North Carolina's reputation and economy have taken a major hit in the past month after it became the first state to require transgender people to use public restrooms that match the sex on their birth certificate rather than their gender identity. REUTERS

Billy Paul; to the right is Ernest Stuart, trombonist and founder of Center City Jazz Festival. GETTY IMAGES; JAUHIEN SASNOU

Philly jazz greats remember Billy Paul

Local jazz, R&B and blues musicians mourned the loss of an iconic soul singer Monday.

JENNY DEHUFF
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letters@metro.us

Despite Monday's sunshine, a cloud hung over Philadelphia as local musicians mourned the loss of legendary jazz and soul singer Billy Paul.

Paul succumbed to pancreatic cancer Sunday in his Blackwood, New Jersey, home, according to reports.

Many of Philadelphia's modern greats in the jazz, blues, R&B and soul scenes have attributed their successes to Paul, who was born Paul Williams in Philadelphia. Some sought his tutelage and received it. Some were lucky enough to share the stage.

Philly trombonist Ernest Stuart, who's been a pioneer of the jazz scene for the last decade, played with Paul early on. He said Paul helped shape the course of jazz and soul music across the globe.

Stuart said it was around 2009 when Paul was playing at the West Oak Lane Jazz Festival when he got a last-minute phone call from the festival's musical director, Adam Faulk, to come play on stage with Paul.

"I was shocked because I grew up listening to 'Me and Mrs. Jones,'" he said. "As a matter of fact, me my best friend used to drive around Pennsauken and we used to make this mix CD of these jazz songs, but every time 'Me and Mrs. Jones' came on, we'd blast it.

"It's funny, because it was at that point — I'm not sure if my dad really understood or accepted what I was doing for a living. … But it was great to have the moment where I tell him that I'm playing with Billy Paul. He was like, 'wait — Billy Paul, Grammy Award-winning Billy Paul?' It was the moment my dad accepted me being a musician."

Faulk met Paul through some of Paul's bandmates during a jam session one night at the renowned but now defunct Zanzibar Blue on South Broad Street, and threw his hat into the ring to play piano for Paul. He ended up getting the gig and traveled to Brazil, France, Switzerland, Sweden, Belgium, for six or seven years, playing piano.

"He definitely jumpstarted my career," said Faulk.

"Sometimes in America we have a tendency that if something is older, to not pay too much attention to it. But in Brazil, we had audiences ages 18 to 80, all because they loved Billy Paul, and I think that's a true testament to how great and timeless his music was and is still."

Steve McKie, a Philadelphia drummer, said he's done several tribute concerts where he's played Paul's music. He called Monday a very sad day.

"I was introduced to his music by my parents. They were the Gamble and Huff era, and 'Me and Mrs. Jones' was one of the most famous songs I was honored to be able to play," he said.

"He leaves a memorable legacy — I can't put it into words — where you had a bunch of great people and performers, and it just so happened he was from Philly and he was one of the people that represented true music that will last forever."

Billy Paul

According to published reports, Paul served in the Army and was stationed with Elvis Presley, whom he tried to recruit in a jazz band with Bing Crosby's son, Gary Crosby, in 1957. Elvis passed on the opportunity.

Not long after his tour of duty in Germany, Paul released his debut album, "Feelin' Good at the Cadillac Club," in 1968, under the record label owned by Philly music pioneers Kenny Gamble and Leon Huff. In 1972, "Me and Mrs. Jones" came out, and Paul became a star. The song was the No. 1 single on the Billboard Hot 100 and earned him a Grammy. He was a regular alongside the likes of Charlie Parker, John Coltrane, Miles Davis and many others.

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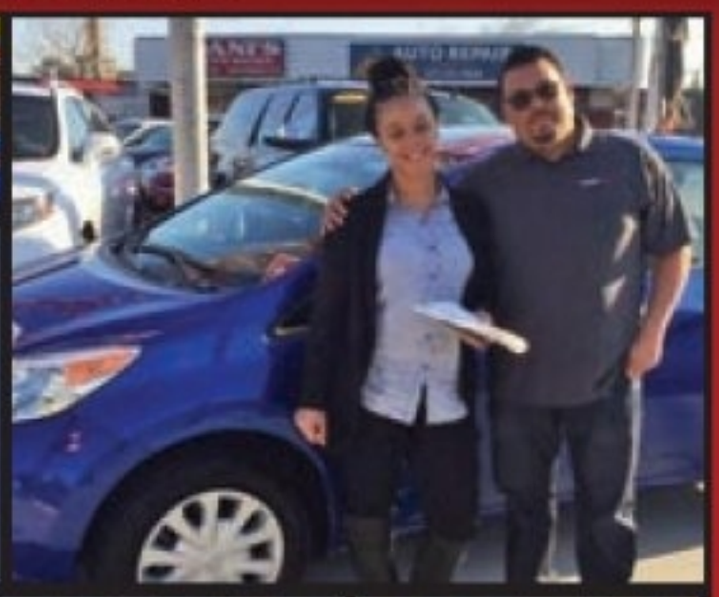

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Cosby appeal tossed, sexual assault case to move forward

Cosby's appeal of a lower court's ruling that he was not protected from sexual assault charges was dismissed.

SAM NEWHOUSE
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Disgraced entertainer Bill Cosby had an appeal that was holding up his case tossed on Monday, meaning the case will advance toward trial.

Cosby had appealed Montgomery County Judge Steven T. O'Neill's ruling that no "nonprosecution agreement" between Cosby's lawyers and former Montgomery County District Attorney Bruce Castor protected Cosby from prosecution for the alleged sexual assault of former Temple University employee Andrea Constand.

The Superior Court dismissed that claim, the Inquirer reported, just as O'Neill did, after finding no legal record of Castor's alleged agreement with Cosby's former lawyer Wally Phillips, now deceased.

"We are gratified that the court came to the same conclusion," said Montgomery County DA Kevin Steele in a statement. "We can now hold a preliminary hearing. We are ready for that hearing look forward to the court setting a date so we can present our case."

Constand was allegedly involved in a nonconsensual sexual encounter with Cosby in his Elkins Park mansion in 2004. She reported it to police a year later, but then-DA Castor did not prosecute Cosby.

Current Montco DA Steele charged Cosby with involuntary sexual assault in December, just days before the statute of limitations ran out.

Cosby's case can now move forward toward a preliminary hearing.

Cosby GETTY IMAGES

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Pa.'s primary day has arrived

Primary day is here in Pennsylvania, and while the heated presidential election has national media watching how the state votes, there are races for office that are important to Philly as well.

Chief among these may be the Democratic nomination race for congressman representing the 2nd District of Pennsylvania.

Incumbent Rep. Chaka Fattah, who is scheduled to begin trial on federal fraud charges in May, is facing challenger state Rep. Dwight Evans, along with Lower Merion Township Commissioner Brian Gordon and Northwest Philly activist Dan Muroff. Despite his criminal case, Fattah is projected to win the race. The nominee will go against Republican candidate and local businessman James Jones.

Several Democrats are vying for the nomination as U.S. senate candidate to go against Republican Pat Toomey in November. These include former Navy Admiral Joe Sestak, former head of state environmental protection Kate McGinty, Western Pennsylvania mayor and grassroots activist John Fetterman and small-business owner Joseph Vodvarka. Sestak is projected to win the race by pollsters.

For election results, visit metro.us

Democrats are also vying for the nomination for state attorney general, as Kathleen Kane will not seek another term.

Montgomery County commissioner Josh Shapiro, Allegheny County District Attorney Stephen Zappalla, and Northampton County DA John Morganelli are fighting for the nomination on the Democratic side. The winner will go against the winner of the Republican primary, former cop and prosecutor Joe Peters or state Sen. John Rafferty.

In Philly, there will be one ballot question for voters: whether the city should establish a commission on African-American men and boys, "which would study and recommend responses to challenges facing African-American males in Philadelphia."

SAM NEWHOUSE

Voting in this primary

The Pennsylvania primary is April 26. Polls in Philadelphia will be open from 7a.m. to 8 p.m.

Visit PhiladelphiaVotes.com to find your polling place.

Need help voting? Call Philly's nonprofit politics watchdog, the Committee of Seventy, at 1-855-SEVENTY (1-855-738-3689).

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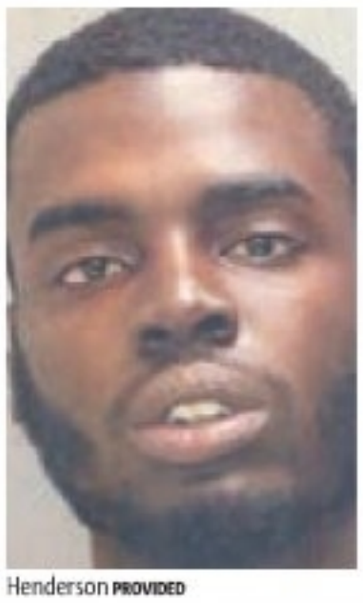

Henderson PROVIDED

Suspect arrested in murder of man who claimed police beating

He was pulled over and arrested during a routine traffic stop.

SAM NEWHOUSE
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The suspected killer of a man who claimed he was wrongly beaten by police officers was nabbed over the weekend, police said.

Khalil Henderson, 22, was arrested on April 23 after highway patrol stopped a car he was in near Roosevelt Boulevard and Fox Street, said a police spokeswoman.

Henderson was wanted for the fatal shooting of Najee Rivera, 23, at Somerset and C streets in December, while Rivera was intervening in an argument between women on the street. Rivera died two weeks after being shot.

"I feel relieved," said Dina Scannapieco, Rivera's former girlfriend — who said that Monday was also her and Rivera's five-year anniversary.

"That was great news to find out he was arrested," she said.

"He got pulled over and got caught with a gun," she said — a 9 mm, she said, which is the same type of gun that killed Rivera.

Scannapieco said Henderson had even used a fake Facebook account to send her more threatening messages.

"He messaged me and said, 'I'm gonna kill your daughter next,'" she said.

Rivera died after he interfered with a fight between two women he didn't know — one of whom was Henderson's girlfriend, according to Scannapieco.

Najee Rivera PROVIDED

When Rivera saw Henderson strike his girlfriend, Rivera said, "You didn't need to hit a female like that," according to Scannapieco — and Henderson turned around and shot him in the stomach, she said. That wound killed Rivera two weeks later.

"He was just in the wrong place at the wrong time," Scannapieco said.

Rivera was thrown into the spotlight in February 2015 after his girlfriend dug up surveillance video showing him being pummeled by police officers who claimed Rivera had assaulted them in a May 2013 incident.

The video got assault charges against Rivera dropped and the two officers, Kevin Robinson and Sean McKnight, were charged with assault.

Rivera did not live long enough to testify in their trial or see them acquitted of all charges.

"This isn't over … we need to make sure this case is solid and he doesn't beat this," Scannapieco said.

"This isn't over … we need to make sure this case is solid and he doesn't beat this."
Scannapieco

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Temple student injured one year ago in hit-and-run to walk at graduation

The Temple student critically injured after being struck while biking in a hit-and-run crash will get to receive her diploma at this year's graduation ceremony.

"If you were to see Rachel in critical condition a year ago, you would never expect her to be in the condition she is now, she is truly a miracle," wrote Kathy Hall, Rachel Hall's mother, on Rachel Hall Temple Strong, a Facebook support group created after the Mullica, New Jersey, native was critically injured in the April 2015 bike crash.

April 29 is the one-year anniversary of the crash at Park Avenue and Diamond Street around 7:30 p.m. that left the Division I lacrosse player at Temple with serious leg and head injuries.

Kathy Hall announced that Hall, 23, who was a senior preparing for graduation at the time of the crash, will get to receive her diploma at a graduation ceremony on May 5.

Well-wishers

Any messages for Hall can be sent to her at PO Box 307, Mullica Hill, NJ 08062.

In the meantime, Hall, whose medical treatment has cost $1.4 million so far, continues physical therapy five days a week, according to her mother.

"One of her future goals is to be accepted back into the Washington, D.C., Metropolitan Police Academy, and a career in helping victims of human trafficking," Kathy Hall wrote. "The generosity of everyone has really helped to mend my heart when it has been broken at such a tragic time."

Driver Rashan "Robert" Roberts, who was 18 at the time of the crash and only had a learner's permit, turned himself in a week after striking Hall. He pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 11 1/2 to 23 months in prison and five years' probation.

SAM NEWHOUSE

Rachel Hall in physical therapy. Hall was hit by a car while biking and suffered serious injuries. PROVIDED

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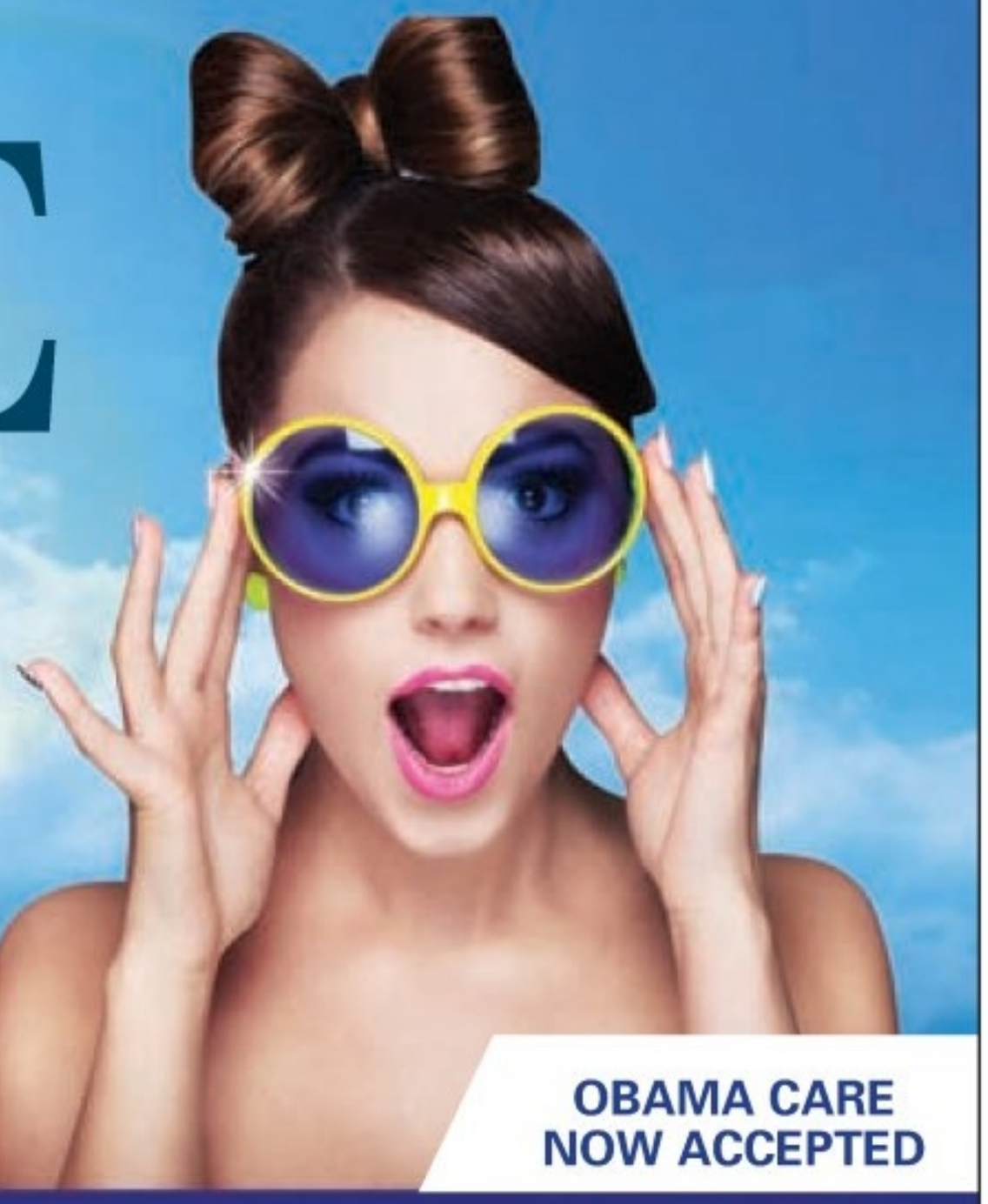

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RACE FOR THE WHITE HOUSE

Trump assails Republican rivals' alliance as 'pathetic'

To derail Trump, Cruz and Kasich agreed to concentrate their efforts and resources in state contests where each has a better shot.

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump GETTY IMAGES

Facing a potential wipeout in presidential nominating contests on Tuesday, Republicans Ted Cruz and John Kasich teamed up against Donald Trump, setting off a barrage of new attacks from the front-runner who denounced them as desperate, weak and pathetic.

Trump told a cheering crowd in Warwick, Rhode Island, on Monday that he was happy about the partnership. "It shows how weak they are. It shows how pathetic they are."

Cruz, a senator from Texas and Trump's closest challenger, said the move was aimed at preventing a Trump nomination that would assure victory for Democrat Hillary Clinton in the Nov. 8 presidential election.

The Cruz-Kasich deal was announced on Sunday before a handful of primary elections in several mid-Atlantic states. It is the latest unusual move in what has been a topsy-turvy Republican presidential race in which early favorites fell to political outsider Trump, whose unexpected rise has left establishment Republicans grappling with a new order.

"It's another exciting day in Republican politics," said Republican National Committee spokesman Sean Spicer on MSNBC.

Cruz will focus on Indiana's May 3 primary without competition from Kasich, while Cruz will stand aside in favor of Kasich in Oregon's May 17 primary and New Mexico's June 7 vote.

Trump, the New York billionaire who often talks about being the consummate dealmaker, said his rivals had committed "a horrible act of desperation" by colluding in those states.

"You know, if you collude in business or if you collude in the stock market, they put you in jail," Trump said in Warwick. "But in politics — because it's a rigged system, because it's a corrupt enterprise — in politics, you're allowed to collude."

The move is unique in modern presidential politics and signaled panic after Trump's sweeping victory in the New York primary last week, said Larry Sabato, director of the University of Virginia's Center for Politics. REUTERS

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Gay-rights activist killed in Bangladesh in suspected Islamist attack

Suspected Islamist militants hacked to death a leading gay-rights activist and a friend in an apartment in the Bangladeshi capital Monday, police said.

The killings took place two days after a university professor was slain in similar fashion Saturday in an attack claimed by the Islamic State.

Five or six assailants went to the apartment of Xulhaz Mannan, 35, an editor of Bangladesh's first magazine for gay, bisexual and transgender people, "Rupban," and attacked him and a friend with sharp weapons, Dhaka city police spokesman Maruf Hossain Sordar said.

They entered the apartment disguised as couriers, he said, quoting witnesses.

They also wounded a security guard. Witnesses said the attackers shouted "Allahu Akbar (God is greatest)" as they fled the scene.

Mannan previously worked at the U.S. Embassy in Dhaka. U.S. Ambassador Marcia Bernicat condemned the killings.

"We abhor this senseless act of violence and urge the government of Bangladesh in the strongest terms to apprehend the criminals behind these murders," she said.

Other attacks took place in the country Monday but it was not immediately clear whether those assaults were carried out by Islamist militants.

Two men on motorcycle shot dead a former prison guard in front of Kashimpur jail on outskirts Dhaka, said Khandakar Rezaul Hasan, chief of the local police station.

REUTERS

A Bangladeshi police official stands in front of an apartment in Dhaka where a leading gay-rights activist was allegedly hacked to death. GETTY IMAGES

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Beyonce fans go after the wrong Rachael

Oh, Beyhive. Sometimes in your haste to right wrongs and correct injustices, you move too quickly and innocent people end up getting hurt. Case in point? Rachael Ray, the unfortunately named domestic diva caught in the crossfire in Beyonce's fans' war with designer Rachel Roy — or, you know, "Becky with the good hair." Allegedly. Word quickly spread that Roy was quite possibly the other woman causing so much of the strife that inspired "Lemonade," and so Beyonce's army marched on — only some of them went after Ray instead. "Oh, I loved hot chicken fajitas but I will never make them again after what you did you did to the Queen," one fan posted on one of Ray's photos. "Never watchin ur show again Rachel u r a homewrecker," wrote another. But come on, people, wasn't the spelling of "Rachael" enough of a clue? Obviously not.

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

the word

NED EHRBAR
letters@metro.us

Let it go, Kanye

Good news! Kanye West is apparently now available for weddings. No word on bar mitzvahs, though, but I'm sure he's willing to negotiate. At club owner Dave Grutman's wedding this weekend, West made light of one of his most famous moments with a clearly staged bit, stepping in and interrupting magazine publisher Jason Binn's speech by grabbing the mic and declaring, "Jason, I'mma let you finish, but Dave and Isabela had one of the best weddings of all time." Get it? It's funny because it's just like his Taylor Swift VMA's interruption from FIVE YEARS AGO. Good to know that both West and Swift are committed to never letting us forget about that one.

@SethMacFarlane
Based on the trends of contemporary society, I should spend 2 hours a day working, and 6 hours a day celebrating my body.

@TheRock
Fun transition begins. Final weeks of shooting #BAYWATCH, and today I start my prep for #FastAndFurious8 which I start shooting in 4 weeks.

@BetteMidler
OMG! Did you watch Game of Thrones? Where can I buy that necklace?

@bobsaget
I talk about my penis at length.

@AZEALIABANKS
You all have no respect for honesty. I've been nothing but honest about everything from day one. Even admitted when I was wrong.

@DonCheadle
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Purple reign

Why Prince was the king of fashion.

RAQUEL LANERI
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raquel.laneri@metro.us

As a child, seeing a photo of Prince for the first time was admittedly kind of scary. A man with a faint mustache and defiant stare, wearing a shrunken, studded military-style jacket, a bandana and ... nothing much more. It was a tantalizing, curious combination — dangerously sexy.

The photo — the cover to one of his early New Wave-meets-R&B masterpieces, 1980's "Dirty Mind" — was not new, by any means. But it was so far ahead of its time that it could still shock a youth growing up in 1990s suburbia.

Even compared with other boundary-pushing musicians like David Bowie, Jimi Hendrix, Sly Stone or, later, Kurt Cobain (who wore eyeliner and dresses on stage), Prince's provocations, his look, existed on a different plane: He blended punk's attitude with glam rock's fabulosity and funk's psychedelic sleaze.

And despite his femme get-ups, breathy falsetto and lithe 5'2"

Prince inspired generations to question traditional ideas of gender. GETTY IMAGES

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frame, he was unabashedly masculine, flaunting his virility with his dark body hair and his resplendent coif.

Prince — arguably the greatest musician who has ever lived (he could play 20 instruments by the age of 12) — died Thursday at the age of 57, leaving behind a legacy of music and film that is unparalleled in the pop world: "Purple Rain," "Little Red Corvette," "1999," "Kiss." But he also left thousands of iconic, fabulous fashion images that changed the notion of what a pop star, what a man, what a person could look and dress like.

Prince left thousands of iconic, fabulous fashion images that changed the notion of what a pop star, what a man, what a person could look and dress like.

That playing with gender was evident from the beginning. Take his self-titled second album from 1979. There's Prince, naked, with a porno-chic mustache and soft Farrah Fawcett waves, riding a pegasus on the back of the album cover. When the Rolling Stones took a young Prince on tour in 1980, the 20-year-old wunderkind showed up on stage in bikini briefs, thigh-high stockings and high heels, prompting boos and homophobic taunts from the square, baby-boomer crowd.

Yet the larger culture began to, if not catch up, at least chase after Prince.

He proved, for one, that you could wear whatever the hell you wanted, revel in your femininity and still get the girl — all the girls, in fact.

Prince oozed sex on screen, whether astride his hulking purple motorcycle in "Purple Rain" or simulating oral sex with a guitar during one of the film's concert scenes.

His frank sexuality, his magnetic beauty gave others permission to dress as weird and funky as they wanted, from Madonna and Cindy Lauper to Outkast's dandyish Andre 3000 and even teen heartthrob Justin Bieber, who wore a vaguely Prince-like dragon-embroidered Givenchy jacket to the Met Ball last year.

Prince may have opted for more modest garments during his middle age, but he never skimped on fabulosity. And he remained resolutely political in his dress, showing up in recent years in an afro and speaking out for the Black Lives Matter movement in such famously anodyne events like the Grammys, for instance. He began donning sunglasses with a third-eye, furthering his image as an otherworldly being. Fashion brands like Givenchy and J.W. Anderson have redefined menswear with a Prince-like disregard for gender conformity, adding ruffled blouses, skirts and paisley-printed suits to their lineups.

Though despite his lasting influence, it's hard to imagine anyone existing quite like him. He was a pioneer, inspiring generations of kids to experiment with gender, sexuality and self-expression.

As famously bisexual rapper Frank Ocean said in a tribute to the Purple One: "He made me feel comfortable with how I identify sexually simply by his display of freedom from and irreverence for the archaic idea of gender conformity."

Prince made the world a more colorful, sexier, more diverse and exciting place to live in. And he did that not just through his glorious music, but through his style.

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Sarita Choudhury will always find a way to fit in

The actress finds the new Tom Hanks movie "A Hologram for the King" quietly subversive.

MATT PRIGGE
@mattprigge
matt.prigge@metro.us

In "A Hologram for the King," Sarita Choudhury plays a doctor in Saudi Arabia who gradually falls for a lonely, visiting American salesman (Tom Hanks). ROADSIDE ATTRACTIONS

Sarita Choudhury thinks she's bad news. The actress lives in Williamsburg, which is now so wealthy the artistic types who made it a hot spot can no longer afford it.

"Everywhere I've lived, all through my life, has become gentrified," Choudhury tells us. "So I feel like I'm the cause. I'm like, 'Here we go again!' You always go where you think is artistic and cool. But that just means it was once a haven."

As it happens, Choudhury is here to talk "A Hologram for the King," which concerns a form of gentrification on the other side of the world. Based on Dave Eggers' 2012 novel, it stars Tom Hanks as an American salesman who heads to Saudi Arabia to sell a new gizmo to the nation's king, who is trying to turn a patch of desert into a thriving, modern, moneyed metropolis. Choudhury plays a doctor in the nearby city of Jeddah who treats Hanks' character. Eventually they begin a hesitant romance.

"A Hologram for the King" may sound like a broad comedy about an American abroad, but it's subtly — and not so subtly — progressive and more about him being consumed by another culture. Alone in America, he increasingly finds real connections in Saudi Arabia.

"America is where you go for your dreams. He's leaving that and going to a country the world thinks has things like oppression and customs that are more severe," she explains. "He goes there and finds freedom and love and himself. It inverts our perceptions. It's more about finding where you're happy regardless of where you think your ambitions and dreams should lie."

Even using Tom Hanks is, she finds, subversive. "We think of him as the American superstar. And yet to have him fall into a friendship with his [Saudi] driver and have a love story with his doctor — he's an everyman that people can identify with and think, 'This can happen to you. You can actually have connections with another culture.'"

She argues it might not have worked without someone of his stature. "If you pick an unknown actor it becomes an independent, edgy movie, and it doesn't give the average viewer access to that," she points out. "It's a clever, subtle way to do that."

Looking back

Choudhury has been very visible of late, having appeared on "Homeland" and, now, "Blindspot," as well as the last two "Hunger Games" films. But the actress, 49, is perhaps most famous for playing the co-lead in Mira Nair's cross-cultural 1991 romance "Mississippi Masala," in which she shocked her Indian family by rolling around with Denzel Washington. Choudhury has talked about finding it difficult to land work after the film; she was still waiting tables as it was playing the Angelika Film Center. Hollywood wasn't sure what to do with her.

"They'd say, 'You're not Mexican, you're not this.' They didn't know where to place me. But I never felt confused," she said. She's always felt comfortable with herself, even if Hollywood was perplexed. Even when she's not working she's fine with that, too. "When I'm not working, I get addicted to not working."

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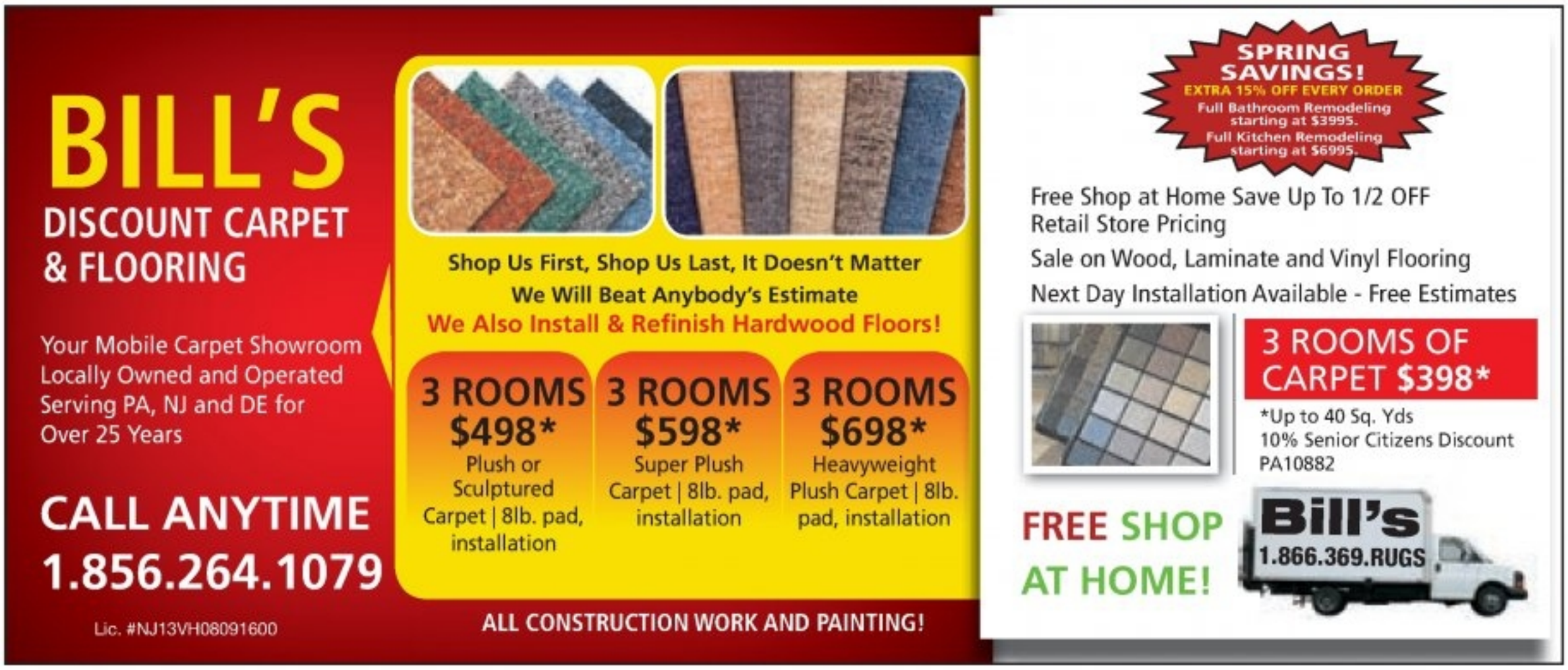
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@SoSadToday starts an important conversation about depression

Instead of filtering her depression away, Melissa Broder started tweeting about it.

CHRIS LEO PALERMINO
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In the middle of a particularly difficult depressive episode, Melissa Broder tried out an unusual type of therapy: creating an anonymous Twitter account called @sosadtoday to disclose her dark inner thoughts to the world. "@Sosadtoday is me lifting up the much," explains Broder, "and revealing one of those parts of myself that I felt like I just couldn't … be honest about in waking light."

Broder uses the outlet, which has grown to amass a Twitter following of more than 300,000, to air her anxious and depressive deliberations on self-worth, relationships and addiction. "When something happens to me in the world, it makes me feel like crap, but then I tweet about it and then I'm actually feeling good about this," says Broder. "I've reframed it in a way that I can feel good about."

After revealing her identity last spring, Broder has now released a book of essays called simply "So Sad Today: Personal Essays" which elaborates on her negative thoughts. With chapters called "Keep Your Friends Close But Your Anxiety Closer" and "How to Never Be Enough," the book is a biting, deeply personal look into Broder's inner mind.

Opening up about depression on social media

Broder was only able to become so candid online because she started @sosadtoday as an anonymous account. She believes that expressing disconcerting thoughts online — even anonymously — can be calming. "If you have things you feel like you need to say … don't let that fear stop you," she says.

Being yourself on social media is key, according to Broder. "I tweet the way that I wish Twitter would be. Be the tweet you wish to see in the world."

Power of creativity

Broder shies from giving advice, but she does stress that finding your creative outlet — whatever that may be — is helpful in finding some peace. "If you have a creative bone in your body, use it. Creativity has always saved my life, you know. The power to create makes life mean something."

Melissa Broder's new book is a collection of personal essays, all about her depression and negative thoughts. LORD BYRON

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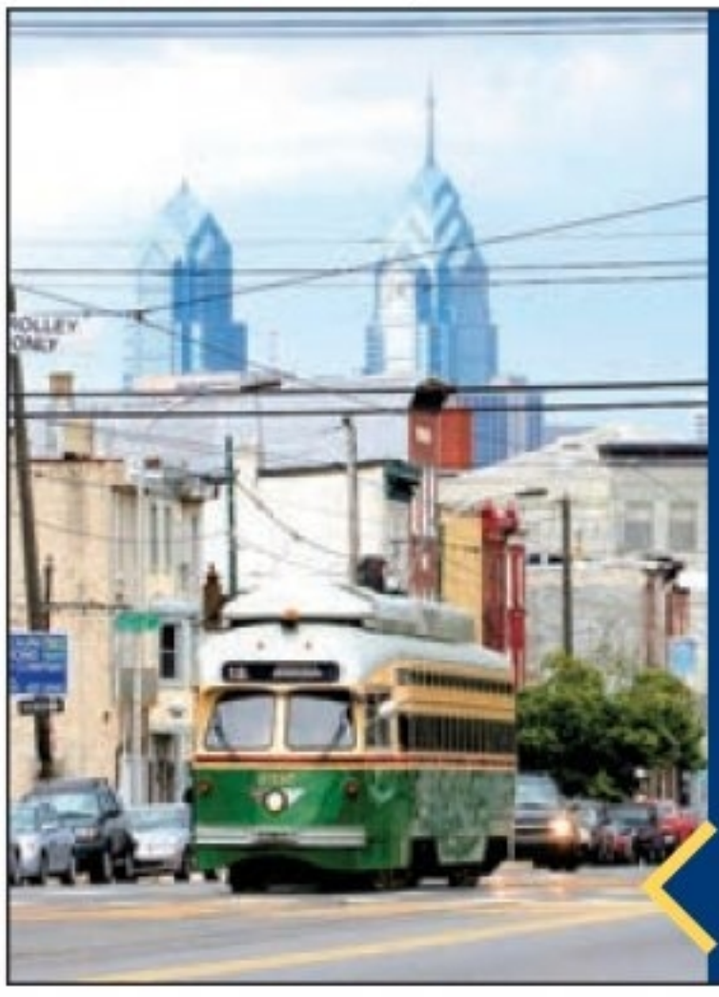

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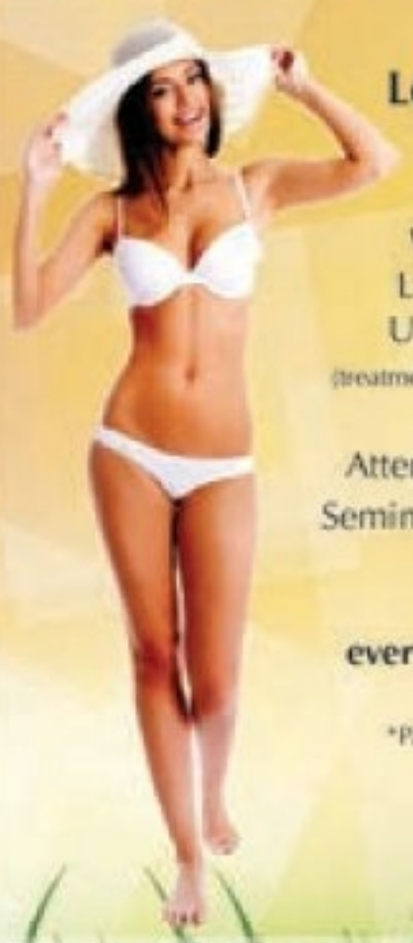

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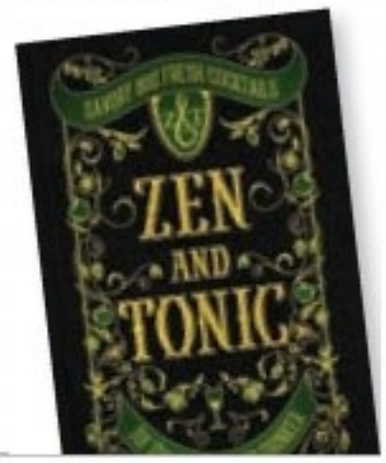

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CARSON WENTZ IS A GAMBLE WORTH TAKING FOR EAGLES

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OPINION

MGlen Macnow has been an outspoken voice in Philly sports for nearly three decades. @realglenmacnow

No one knows whether Carson Wentz, the Eagles' presumptive first-round pick Thursday, is the next Ben Roethlisberger or the next Tim Couch. The next Cam Newton or Ryan Leaf.

You can watch film of the 6-foot-5 Adonis from Bismarck, talk to his coaches, read every article and pepper questions at Mike Mayock. I've done all that. In the end, however, we're still guessing whether Wentz can make the leap from beating the Weber State Wildcats to beating the New York Giants.

Here's what we do know: Eagles GM Howie Roseman is betting his entire career on it. If Wentz — who has started just 23 games at a third-tier conference — is awed or overwhelmed playing against the big boys, Roseman departs town as the butt of jokes. He's this generation's Rich Kotite.

But if Wentz succeeds ... well, there is a little real estate left among all those statues down at the Sports Complex. Can you envision a 10-foot tall monument to Roseman? On the base, you put his mantra: "One-hundred percent, man."

I kid, but really, those are the stakes. And, while I cannot be sure whether Wentz will be the next Andrew Luck or the next Vince Young, I applaud Roseman for having the brass ones to make this move.

The reasoning is simple. History shows that unless an NFL team has that rare killer defense (Baltimore in 2000, Denver last year), it's virtually impossible to win without top QB. I don't care how you define the word "elite," I'm saying he needs to be at least as good as Joe Flacco, Phil Simms or Eli Manning in his prime. None of those former first-rounders is a likely Hall of Famer. But each has earned a Super Bowl MVP.

Sam Bradford isn't that guy, despite being the top overall pick in 2010. The closest we've seen here was Donovan McNabb, who was talented enough to keep the Eagles in contention most years but, alas, incapable of carrying them to a title.

Oh, and if there's truth in the reports Monday that Sam Bradford has demanded a trade and plans to skip offseason activities, well, that makes the decision to pick his replacement even easier. Bradford signed a deal, took a $5.5 million signing bonus and now whines because he faces competition? What a wuss.

Great QBs usually go at the top of the draft. The Eagles took McNabb with the second overall pick in 1999. Last year, the two worst teams aimed to rebuild behind rookie QBs: Tampa (Jameis Winston) and Tennessee (Marcus Mariota). Fans of both probably feel optimistic right now.

So when Roseman saw the opportunity to go from 13th to eighth in this year's draft, and then up to second, he jumped. Did he give up a lot with that quiver full of picks? Of course he did. Could it fail in a Jamarcus Russell kind of way? Yeah, it could.

But the Eagles haven't won an NFL title since 1960. Why worry about setting the franchise back? If Wentz is a 10-year starter, no one will say, "Look at what the Birds could have picked with that 2018 second rounder." We'll be too busy molding the cast iron for that Roseman statue.

Carson Wentz's future success is irrelevant at this point — at least the Eagles are trying. GETTY IMAGES

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Trading Bradford is really complicated

Sam Bradford GETTY IMAGES

Would you pay $11 million for a draft pick?

That's the dilemma facing the Eagles with three days until the NFL Draft, if you believe reports from ESPN's Adam Schefter and others that quarterback Sam Bradford's agent Tom Condon asked Philadelphia to trade his client Monday.

Earlier Monday, Yahoo's Charles Robinson reported that Bradford is upset about the trade (one that got the Eagles the No. 2 overall pick and positions them to take Carson Wentz) but is also "prepared to prove to the Eagles that he's a franchise quarterback."

The Eagles are locked for half of the $22 million guaranteed to Bradford from his recently inked three-year deal.

The main question for teams like the Jets, Broncos and 49ers, all likely interested in having the services of a veteran mid-level quarterback like Bradford, is what would they be willing to pay? And the main question for the Eagles is if they would be comfortable shelling out $11 million to a player inked to a contract just over one month ago to not take a single snap.

It's possible that New York, for example, might prefer to take a flyer on a mid-round quarterback prospect like Connor Cook or Christian Hackenberg rather than swap that pick for Bradford. But he is ready-made, and has not had a very good supporting cast as he's tried to win at the NFL level.

Many have surmised that Condon, who is a respected and in-the-know NFL agent, might already have a trade partner in mind.

Eagles' front-office head Howie Roseman emphasized his support for Bradford on CSN Monday.

"I want to reiterate our support for Sam Bradford and go back to our statements last week — that Sam is our starting quarterback," Roseman said. "His agent and Sam know how we feel about him. These workouts are voluntary. We look forward to seeing Sam again in the near future."

Roseman was then asked if there was concern that Bradford will not show up for the mandatory parts of Philly's offseason program.

"I think you talk about Sam and what a pro he is," Roseman continued. "Him and his agent, we've worked well together for a long period of time. He loves to play the game. We look forward to seeing him soon." EVAN MACY

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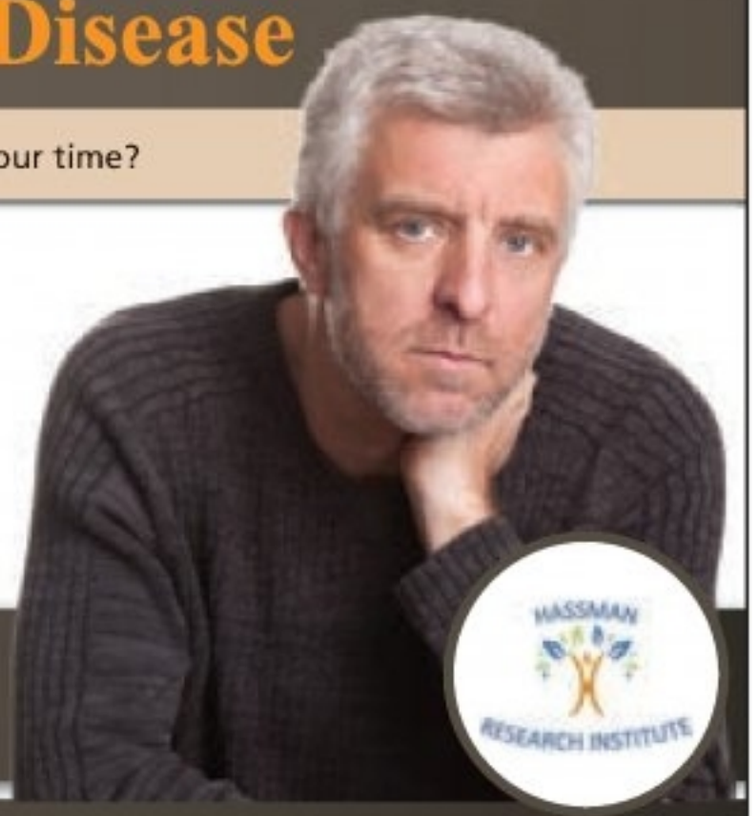

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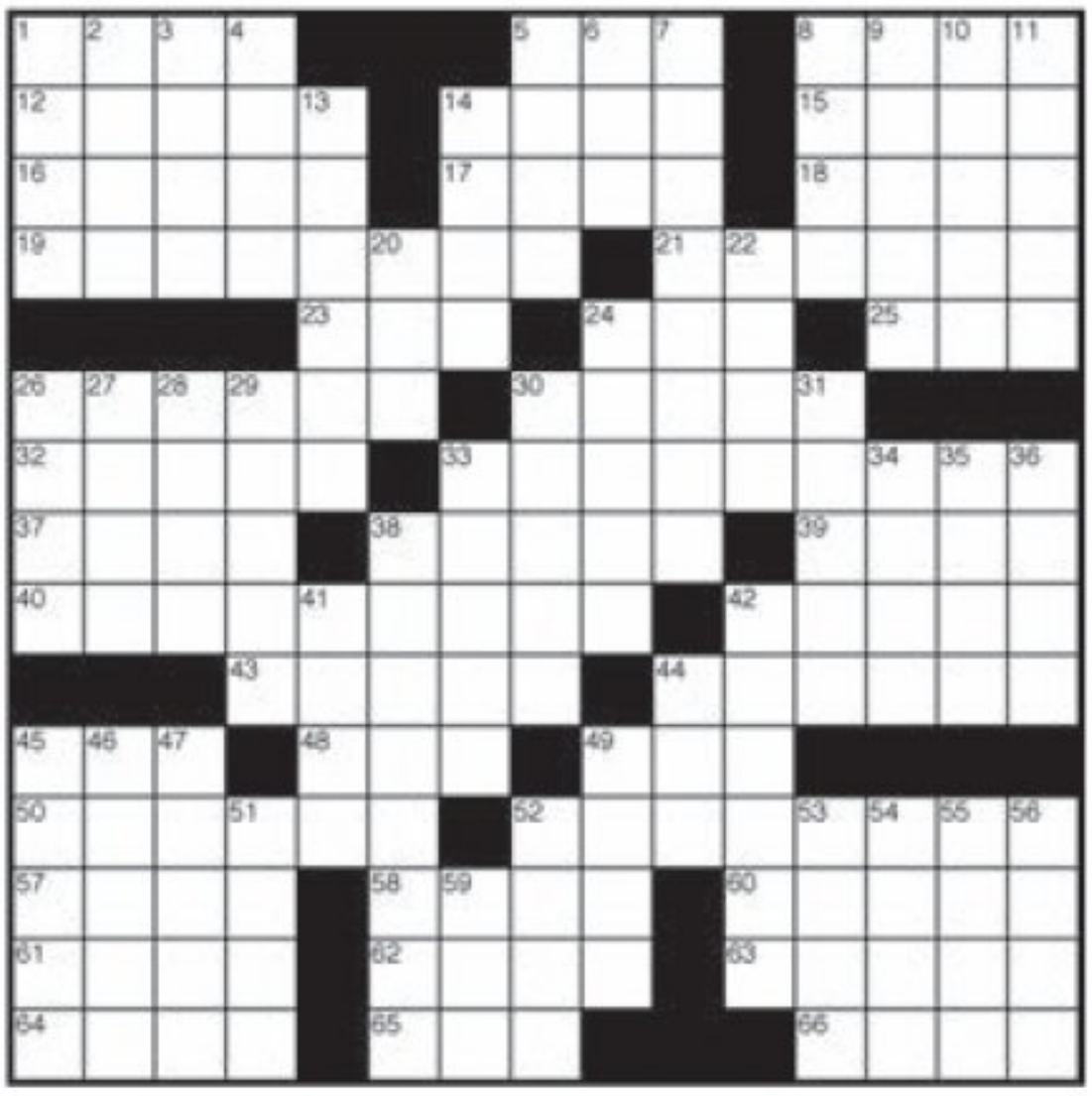

Across

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12 Calgary Stampede
14 Earl — Biggers
15 Tiant of baseball
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17 Rajah's consort
18 WWW addresses
19 Plots
21 Group spirit
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43 Flunks
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49 Spy org.
50 Expose
52 Wallaby or joey
57 Iffy attempt
58 Cousteau's islands
60 Burro alternative
61 Type of eagle
62 "Da" opposite
63 "The — Sanction"
64 Good buy
65 Ike's rank
66 Wallet stuffers

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10 Folding money
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hard

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metro.us/horoscopes

Aries Your quick wit will put you in the spotlight. Strut your stuff and make personal changes that will boost your morale and result in compliments. Romance is encouraged.

Taurus Build alliances and develop open relationships with people heading in the same direction as you. A beneficial idea or service you offer will bring in extra cash.

Gemini You shouldn't let anyone guilt you into something you don't care to do. You'll gain respect if you say no. Don't pay for others' mistakes or make donations you cannot afford.

Cancer Speak up, share your suggestions and offer solutions. Don't worry about the actions of others. If someone is unpredictable, keep your distance. Your intuition will not mislead you.

Leo Socializing with your peers will put you in a good position. Personal changes will build confidence. Someone will be jealous of you. Offering friendship will stump your rivals.

Virgo Use your intelligence and experience to overcome any problems you face at home. An elder or someone you feel responsible for will have difficulty combating common sense.

Libra Partnerships will play a major role in the decisions and choices you make. Short trips or a meeting with someone can make a difference to the outcome of a personal situation.

Scorpio You'll have a different vision from someone you are working with. Try to use what both of you bring to the table to come up with something spectacular.

Sagittarius You'll receive plenty of information, but before you act on hearsay, ask questions and go to the source for the truth. A change of heart will lead to a romantic encounter.

Capricorn It's OK to be different. Follow your gut when it comes to someone acting inconsistently. Pour more time, attention and cash into your home, family and plans for the future.

Aquarius Follow your heart and use your skills and best attributes to get things done your way. Love is in the stars, and a romantic evening will pay off.

Pisces Proceed with caution. Don't give in to someone making demands on your time or money. Consider where you can make the most difference and follow through. **EUGENIA LAST**

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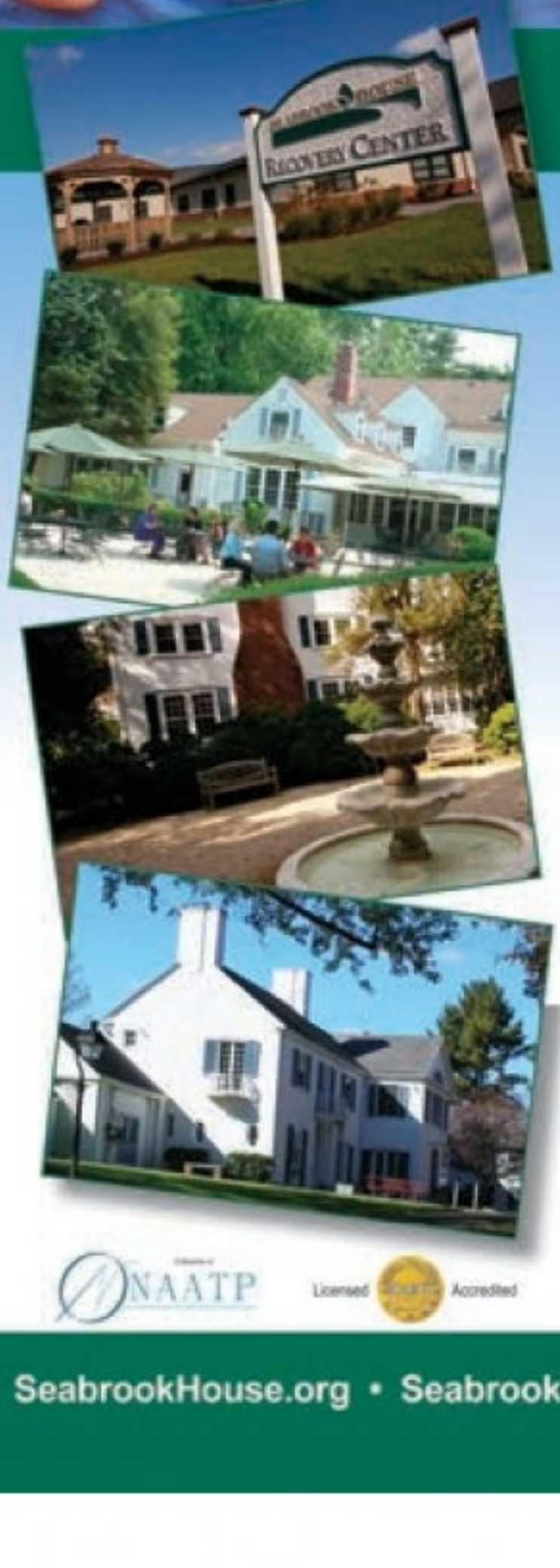

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